

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1–36 (cancelled).

Claim 37 (currently amended): A system for selecting and automatically recording medical image data onto a data storage medium, the system being connected to a medical image server, the system comprising:

- an application server;
- a plurality of production stations;
- a plurality of browsing terminals;

a network connecting the application server, the plurality of production stations and the plurality of browsing terminals, wherein the application server is configured to receive medical image data from the medical image server, the medical images received being formatted in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images, the application server further comprising:

- a selection module configured to allow a user to select selected medical image data via at least one of (a) a selected one of the plurality of browsing terminals and (b) the application server,

- a search module configured to automatically search the medical image server for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data,

- a configuration data module configured to allow a user to input identifying information relating to the selected medical image data,

- a production station selection module configured to allow a user to select one of the plurality of production stations, wherein the selected production station is configured to receive the selected medical image

data and the related medical image data to produce a data storage medium that has recorded on it the selected and the related medical image data, the selected medical image data being recorded on the data storage medium in the standard medical imaging format, and

an audit module configured to automatically provide an auditable trail of the selected medical image data;

a viewing program for the standard medical imaging format that is recorded on the data storage medium, and that is configured to allow viewing of medical image data stored on the data storage medium on widely accessible computers not specifically configured with standard medical imaging software for viewing of medical images; and

a label automatically printed and applied to the data storage medium at the production station, the label containing the identifying information.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The system of Claim 37, wherein the data storage medium is an optical disk.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The system of Claim 37, wherein the auditable trail of the selected medical image data includes a record of when the selected medical image data and the related medical image data were recorded onto the data storage medium.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The system of Claim 37, wherein the medical image server is configured to provide medical image data to the application server in response to generation of medical image data by an imaging modality coupled to the medical image server.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The system of Claim 40, wherein the imaging modality is an image scanner configured to generate medical image data in a DICOM-compatible format from a film.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The system of Claim 37, wherein the application server further comprises a user authentication module configured to authenticate a user's identification before the user is allowed to access the selection module.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The system of Claim 37, wherein the application server further includes a database configured to store medical image data received from the medical image server.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The system of Claim 43, wherein the selection module is further configured to provide the user with a listing of patients having medical image data stored in the database.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A system comprising:

- a medical image server configured to receive medical image data that is generated by a plurality of imaging modalities, the medical image data being formatted in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;

- a database configured to store medical image data generated by the plurality of imaging modalities;

- a plurality of browsing terminals configured to receive a user selection that defines selected medical image data;

- a search module configured to search the database for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data; and

- a production station that is configured to record all of the following onto a data storage medium:

- the selected medical image data, recorded in the standard medical imaging format,

the related medical image data, recorded in the standard medical imaging format, and

a viewing program that is configured to allow viewing of the selected and the related medical image data that is recorded onto the data storage medium on widely accessible computers not specifically configured with standard medical imaging software for viewing of medical images.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The system of Claim 45, further comprising a configuration data module configured to allow a user to input identifying information relating to the selected medical image data.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The system of Claim 46, wherein the production station is further configured to print and apply a label to the data storage medium, the label containing the identifying information.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The system of Claim 45, further comprising an audit module that is configured to automatically provide an auditable trail of the selected medical image data.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The system of Claim 48, wherein the auditable trail of the selected medical image data includes a record of when the selected medical image data and the related medical image data were recorded onto the data storage medium.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The system of Claim 48, wherein the auditable trail of the selected medical image data includes identifying information corresponding to the production station used to record the selected medical image data and the related medical image data onto the data storage medium.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The system of Claim 45, wherein the data storage medium is an optical disk.

Claim 52 (currently amended): A method for selecting and automatically recording medical image data onto a data storage medium, the method comprising:

- receiving medical image data from a plurality of imaging modalities, the received medical image data being formatted in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;

- storing the received medical image data in a database;

- providing a user interface configured to receive a user selection that defines selected medical image data;

- searching the database for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data;

- recording the selected medical image data and the related medical image data onto a data storage medium using a production station, the selected medical image data being recorded on the data storage medium in the standard medical imaging format;

- recording a viewing program onto the data storage medium using the production station, the viewing program being configured to allow viewing of medical image data stored on the data storage medium on widely accessible computers not specifically configured with standard medical imaging software for viewing of medical images;

- printing a label using the production station, wherein the label includes identifying information associated with the selected medical image data; and

- affixing the label to the data storage medium using the production station.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, further comprising generating an auditable trail of the selected medical image data, wherein the auditable trail includes a record of when the selected medical image data and the related medical image data were recorded onto the data storage medium.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, wherein the user interface is further configured to collect the identifying information from the user.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, further comprising providing, via the user interface, a list of patients having medical image data stored in the database.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, wherein the plurality of imaging modalities includes an image scanner configured to generate medical image data in a DICOM-compatible format from a film.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, wherein the data storage medium is an optical disk.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52, wherein recording the selected medical image data and the related medical image data further comprising selecting a selected production station from a plurality of production stations that are connected to the database via a computer network.

Claim 59 (new): A system comprising:

- an application server configured to receive medical image data from a medical image server, wherein the medical image data is received in a standard medical imaging format used by specialized computers configured for viewing medical images;

- a plurality of production stations;

- a plurality of browsing terminals; and

- a network connecting the application server, the plurality of production stations and the plurality of browsing terminals;

- wherein the application server comprises:

a selection module configured to allow a user to select selected medical image data via a user interface,

a search module configured to search the medical image server for related medical image data that is related to the selected medical image data, and

a production station selection module configured to allow a user to select one of the plurality of production stations, wherein the selected production station is configured to (a) receive the selected medical image data and the related medical image data, (b) produce a data storage medium that has recorded thereon in the standard medical imaging format the selected medical image data and the related medical image data, and (c) also record onto the data storage medium a viewing program for the standard medical imaging format that is configured to allow viewing of the selected medical image data and the related medical image data on widely accessible computers with standard medical imaging software for viewing medical images.

Claim 60 (new): The system of Claim 59, wherein the selection module is configured to allow the user to select selected medical image data using a selected one of the plurality of production stations or a selected one of the plurality of browsing terminals.

Claim 61 (new): The system of Claim 59, wherein the application server further comprises a configuration data module configured to allow the user to input identifying information relating to the selected medical imaging data.

Claim 62 (new): The system of Claim 61, further comprising a label applied to the data storage medium, the label containing the identifying information.

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Claim 63 (new): The system of Claim 59, wherein the application server further comprises an audit module configured to provide an auditable trail of the selected medical image data.